

# The Toddler Times

Early Literacy Newsletter ~ West Linn Public Library ~ September 2009

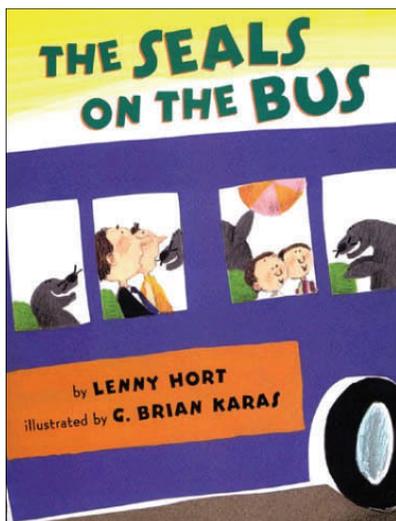
When you practice Early Literacy, you are creating an environment that will help prepare your young children to be ready to learn to read. In an atmosphere that is rich with books, crafts, language and songs, you are creating opportunities to learn—without having it feel like a classroom.

There are six early literacy skills that you can incorporate into your children's daily lives. Detailed information about these skills is available at <http://multcolib.org/birthtosix/elitskills.html/>

In this newsletter we will use themes to help you practice early literacy at home. Every issue will include books and ways to use them, songs and fingerplays, and easy crafts.

We also invite you to bring your children to our weekly storytimes where we reinforce these early literacy techniques. Our storytimes are every Thursday and Friday at

- 10:00 for newborn to 3 years.
- 11:00 for 3 to 6 year olds.

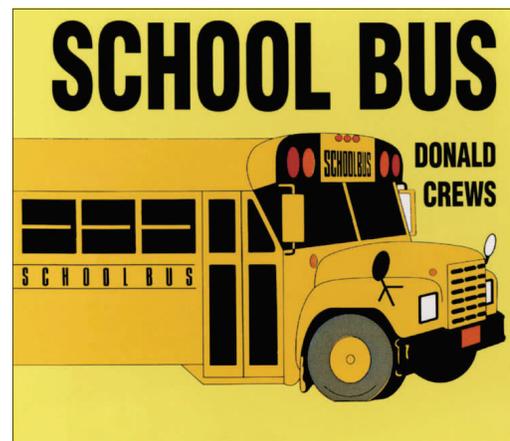


*The Seals on the Bus*,  
by Lenny Hort

In this hilarious version of the song, different animals-- including seals, tigers, geese, and more-- make their own sounds as they ride all around the town. All is well until the skunks board the bus!

## The Wheels on the Bus!

It's "off to school" time. And even though our younger ones aren't ready for preschool, they are surely aware of the excitement and all the big yellow buses around town.

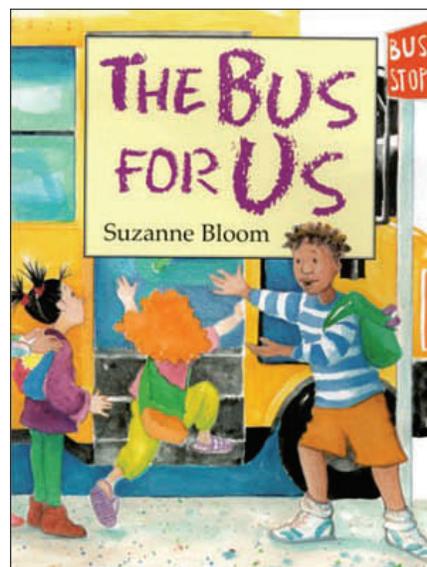


*School Bus*, by Donald Crews

What's large or small, bright yellow, and filled with kids?  
School Bus!

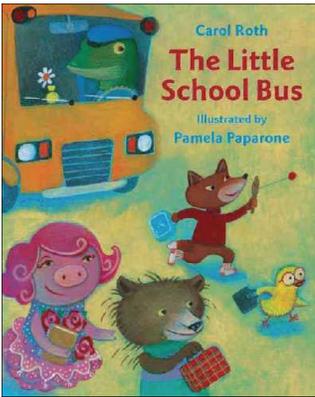
Climb aboard and let the master of graphically simple toddler books take you to school – and back home again.

[Also look for other Donald Crews' books including *Flying Freight Train* and *Truck*. Just right for the toddler set!]

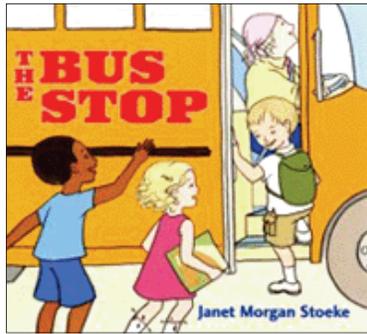


*The Bus For Us*, by  
Suzanne Bloom

Tess is excited for her first day of school and her very first ride on a school bus. Waiting at the bus stop she eagerly asks, "Is this the bus for us?" as each vehicle passes by. From fire engine to backhoe, we are introduced a variety of vehicles through simple text and spirited illustrations.



*The Little School Bus*, by Carol Roth  
 "Here comes the school bus, beep, beep, beep! Step right up and take a seat!" Several silly animals board the bus. The bouncy, rhyming text and bright pictures make this book a ride that children will want to take over and over again.



*The Bus Stop*, by Janet Stoeke  
 "Miranda Cook has a library book. And she can't wait to bring it to the bus stop." The upbeat rhymes and repeated refrain paired with simple pictures make this "first experience" book a pleasure. But at the end the children look forward even more to the ride home!

## Fingerplays & Songs

Do motions with your kids to go along with the words.

### Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,  
 Little lamb, little lamb,  
 Mary had a little lamb,  
 Its fleece was white as snow

And everywhere that Mary went,  
 Mary went, Mary went,  
 Everywhere that Mary went  
 The lamb was sure to go

It followed her to school one day  
 School one day, school one day  
 It followed her to school one day  
 Which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,  
 Laugh and play, laugh and play,  
 It made the children laugh and play  
 To see a lamb at school



### Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round  
 Round and round, round and round  
 The wheels on the bus go round and round  
 All through the town.

The doors on the bus go open and shut  
 Open and shut, open and shut...

The money on the bus goes  
 "Clink, clink, clink,..."

The driver on the bus says  
 "Move on back"...

The people on the bus go  
 up and down...

The babies on the bus go  
 "Wah, wah, wah!..."

The Mommies on the bus go  
 "shh, shh, shh..."

The Daddies on the bus say  
 "I love you..."

The wipers on the bus go  
 "Swish, swish, swish..."

The horn on the bus goes  
 "Beep, beep, beep..."



## Crafts

It would be good to invest in some stickers for our easy paper craft projects. At the library, we use 1-inch colored dots that you can get at office supply stores. At first your child will probably enjoy eating the paper or tearing off the dots, but later he or she will enjoy manipulating the stickers and placing them on the crafts. We add crayons to the mix for the preschoolers.

**School bus craft:** Use a piece of blue paper and either draw or paste a black line at the bottom for the “road.” Cut out and glue yellow rectangles for the buses and add round black stickers for the wheels. You could add other vehicles or stop lights with these simple shapes.

